

kits that will test for and detect methamphetamine.

Despite improvements in state and local efforts to reduce its prevalence, the problems produced by methamphetamines and incidents related to methamphetamines continue. In 2005, 5,846 methamphetamine labs were seized, and in 2003, 7.6 percent of high school students reported having used methamphetamines. Self-reported use of methamphetamines by adults and adolescents continues to rise. As methamphetamine usage increases, the demand for the drug rises. Nowhere is it a bigger problem than in the Midwest, where methamphetamines account for nearly 90 percent of all drug cases. In states such as Oklahoma, methamphetamines are surpassing cocaine as the drug of choice. The state medical examiner's office reports the number of death cases testing positive for methamphetamines has been higher than cocaine. The office also reports methamphetamine is found in more cases of homicides, and motor vehicle accidents.

Methamphetamine labs not only damage individuals, they affect our children and our environment. As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am horrified by the effects methamphetamine labs have on children. Children living at methamphetamine labs are at increased risk for severe neglect and abuse, both physical and sexual abuse. A child raised in or near a methamphetamine lab environment experiences stress and trauma that significantly affect his or her overall safety and health, including behavioral, emotional, and cognitive functioning.

Hazardous living conditions and filth are common in methamphetamine lab homes where explosives and loaded guns are often present and in many instances, within easy reach. The safety and development of our children are negatively influenced by living in methamphetamine lab homes.

Our environment suffers from methamphetamine labs as well. In general, there are 5–7 pounds of toxic waste produced for every pound of methamphetamine manufactured. There are more than 30 chemicals used to produce methamphetamines, and most are explosive, caustic, and carcinogenic. The chemicals are often poured into streams, down drains or disposed of in fields, yards or gutters. Many highway cleanup crews have reported finding toxic garbage from methamphetamines in ditches. All of this illicit toxic waste eventually winds up in waterways via rainwater runoff.

Mr. Speaker, these dire problems require immediate action and H.R. 365 does this appropriately. I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight against the methamphetamine epidemic by supporting H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007.

TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY POLICIES ACT OF 1978 TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD FOR CERTAIN RETAIL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 in order to establish a Federal renewable energy portfolio standard for certain retail electric utilities. I would like to thank Representatives PLATTS, PALLONE, UDALL of Colorado, SHAYS, DEGETTE and MCNERNEY for their work on this issue and for joining me in introducing this legislation.

This bill will take a modest but important step towards developing our country's vast renewable energy resources by requiring retail sellers of electricity to use a minimum amount of electricity from renewable energy sources. That minimum increases gradually from only 1 percent in 2010 to a long-term target of 20 percent by 2020.

Developing our homegrown energy resources will create jobs, save consumers money, and bolster rural economies. In addition, diversifying our energy supply will increase our energy security and reduce the threat of global warming.

For example, a 2006 analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that a standard requiring 20 percent of generation from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 would generate over 355,000 new high-paying jobs. In 2004, the Union of Concerned Scientists, using a modified version of the National Energy Modeling System, found that a 20 percent standard would have virtually no impact on consumer electric rates and would actually work to reduce natural gas prices.

Moreover, they calculated that a 20 percent standard would provide \$72.6 billion in new capital investments, \$15 billion in property tax revenues, and more than \$17 billion in payments to farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners. Consumers would save over \$12.6 billion. Commercial and industrial users would save \$19.1 billion and \$17.4 billion, respectively. And, all of those savings would actually be helping us reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy and our impact on global warming.

The momentum for a national renewable portfolio standard, more simply known as an RPS, has been building. A Federal RPS mandate has already passed the Senate three times. Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia have already enacted renewable portfolio standards of their own because they recognize the economic benefits of an RPS. Nine States have even increased or accelerated existing standards. The RPS has proven itself effective, efficient and popular. It is time to bring those benefits to the rest of the Nation.

This bill provides for a gradual start, and it has many provisions both to help utilities meet the requirement and to reward those utilities that meet the requirements ahead of schedule.

It allows States, many of whom have moved far ahead on this issue, to have standards that are more rigorous than the Federal standards, and it provides incentives for the distributed generation of renewable energy and for the development of renewable energy resources on tribal lands.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. PAUL ANTHONY WIESER

## HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Paul Anthony Wieser of Culpeper, Virginia, who passed away on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Mr. Wieser dedicated his life to military and public service and should be honored today.

Mr. Wieser was a proud World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy aboard the USS *North Carolina* as a Boatswain Mate First Class from 1941 to 1946. After the war, he returned home to Linden, New Jersey and became a firefighter for the Linden Fire Department. He was called from the United States Naval Reserve in 1951 and served in Korea aboard the USS *Kula Gulf*. After retiring from the Linden, New Jersey Fire Department in 1980, Mr. Wieser moved to Wilmington, North Carolina to be closer to the battleship he loved, the USS *North Carolina*. He was a volunteer tour guide on the USS *North Carolina* for over 10 years. Mr. Wieser remained in touch with many of his shipmates and attended all of the USS *North Carolina*'s annual reunions. As the guest of honor at Constitution Day on September 17, 2006, he had the opportunity to ring the USS *North Carolina*'s bell. He was also featured on the cover of the October 2006 issue of Virginia Living Magazine in an issue that honored World War II heroes.

I hope that you will join me in honoring the life and service of Mr. Wieser and offering our sincerest condolences to his wife, Millie Wieser, and his family and friends.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House during the week beginning February 5, 2007. As a result, I was not recorded for a series of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, and 92, and "nay" on rollcall 81.